



COUNTY OF SAN DIEGO
Great Government Through the General Management System – Quality, Timeliness, Value
DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN RESOURCES

CLASS SPECIFICATION

CLASSIFIED

SENIOR INSECT DETECTION SPECIALIST

Class No. 005397

■ CLASSIFICATION PURPOSE

To supervise, plan, organize, and direct the fieldwork of subordinates performing detection, trapping, field identification and control work on agricultural pests; and to perform related work as required.

■ DISTINGUISHING CHARACTERISTICS

This is the first-line supervisory class in the Insect Detection Specialist series. Under general supervision, Senior Insect Detection Specialists are responsible for organizing, directing, and coordinating subordinates performing detection, trapping, field identification and control work on agricultural pests. This class is distinguished from the next higher class Deputy Agricultural Commissioner and Sealer, in that the latter is responsible for supervising one highly complex agricultural or weights and measures program or several less complex programs.

■ FUNCTIONS

The examples of functions listed in the class specification(s) are representative but not necessarily exhaustive or descriptive of any one position in the class(es). Management is not precluded from assigning other related functions not listed herein if such functions are a logical assignment for the positions.

Essential Functions:

1. Supervises, evaluates, schedules, and coordinates the work of subordinate Insect Detection Specialists involved in inspection and investigation of properties/nurseries to determine the presence of plant pests such as insects, nematodes, and plant diseases.
2. Plans insect trap workload distribution, directs and evaluates pest trapping or other detection operations and monitors the progress of trapping/detection efforts to ensure that departmental work and priorities are met.
3. Provides training to subordinate staff in pesticide safety, enforces proper practices, and ensures that subordinate staff complies with all pesticide safety requirements.
4. Works with other Sr. Insect Detection Specialists to consolidate maps and ensure complete coverage of county.
5. Supervises the selection, use and/or implementation of appropriate materials and methods to collect, prevent and control a variety of plant pests.
6. Plans, implements and directs delimitation trapping and pesticide spraying to eradicate infestations independently or in cooperation with the state.
7. Completes inventories of traps, equipment, materials, vehicles, and other supplies.
8. Ensures work is performed in compliance with CDFA contract.
9. Establishes and maintains standards of performance through counseling, coaching and appropriate disciplinary actions.
10. Prepares reports and keeps accurate work records.
11. Prepares plant culture media and submits specimens for identification.
12. Performs routine laboratory work.
13. Assists Agricultural/Standards Inspectors, Plant Pathologists/ Nematologists, and Economic Entomologists as needed.
14. Provides responsive, high quality service to County employees, representatives of outside agencies, and members of the public by providing accurate, complete and up-to-date information, in a courteous, efficient, and timely manner.

■ KNOWLEDGE, SKILLS, AND ABILITIES

Knowledge of:

- Specimen collection and handling methods.
- Field identification of plant pests, plants and trees.
- Pest-host relationships.
- Standard laboratory equipment and procedures.
- Pest collection/control equipment, usage, maintenance, and safety procedures.

- Herbicides, pesticides, and their safe application.
- County customer service objectives and strategies.

Skills and Abilities:

- Supervise, train, coordinate, and evaluate the work of employees.
- Schedule, organize, and coordinate the work of one or more groups of employees.
- Perform basic laboratory tests.
- Observe and gather agricultural samples for testing.
- Place, inspect, and maintain insect traps.
- Follow agriculture and pesticide codes and policies pertaining to Pest Management/Detection.
- Read and follow maps.
- Learn to perform laboratory testing procedures.
- Keep accurate records of work and make reports.
- Establish and maintain cooperative working relationships with management, employees, employee representatives and the public representing diverse cultures and backgrounds.
- Treat County employees, representatives of outside agencies and member of the public with courtesy and respect.
- Assess the customer's immediate needs and ensure customer's receipt of needed services through personal service of referral.
- Exercise appropriate judgment in answering questions and releasing information; analyze and project consequences of decisions and/or recommendations.

■ **EDUCATION/EXPERIENCE**

Education, training, and/or experience that demonstrate possession of the knowledge, skills, and abilities listed above. Examples of qualifying education/experience are:

Senior Insect Detection Specialist:

1. One (1) year of experience in the detection and control of vertebrate, insects, plant diseases, or weeds equivalent to the work of Insect Detection Specialist II with the County of San Diego, OR
2. Two (2) years of experience in the areas of vertebrate, insect, plant disease, or weed detection and control, AND, completion of at least eighteen (18) units of college-level coursework in biology, botany, entomology, or a closely related science, OR
3. Completion of sixty (60) semester units of college-level coursework in agriculture, biology, botany, entomology, or a closely related field.

■ **ESSENTIAL PHYSICAL CHARACTERISTICS**

The physical characteristics described here are representative of those that must be met by an employee to successfully perform the essential functions of the classification(s). Reasonable accommodation may be made to enable an individual with qualified disabilities to perform the essential functions of a job, on a case-by-case basis.

Continuous upward and downward flexion of the neck. Normal color vision required to recognize colors of specimens. Frequent: walking, standing, sitting, repetitive use of hands, and lifting and carrying of object weighing up to 50 pounds. Occasional: bending and twisting of neck, bending and twisting of waist, squatting, grasping, reaching above and below shoulder level, and lifting and carrying of objects weighing up to 60 pounds.

■ **SPECIAL NOTES, LICENSES, OR REQUIREMENTS**

License

A valid California class C driver's license, which must be maintained throughout employment in this class, is required at time of appointment, or the ability to arrange necessary and timely transportation for field travel. Employees in this class may be required to use their own vehicle.

Certification/Registration

None Required.

Working Conditions

Incumbents in this class work outside, walk over rough terrain, and perform physically strenuous work. Occasional overtime and weekend work may be required.

Background Investigation

Must have a reputation for honesty and trustworthiness. Misdemeanor and/or felony convictions may be disqualifying depending on type, number, severity, and regency. Prior to appointment, candidates will be subject to a background investigation.

Probationary Period

Incumbents appointed to permanent positions in this class shall serve a probationary period of 6 months (Civil Service Rule 4.2.5).

New: November 25, 1974
Retitled: December 9, 1994
Reviewed: Spring 2003
Revised: May 18, 2004
Revised: June 9, 2004
Revised: November 29, 2005
Revised: March 31, 2006